

Message Text

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SUBJ: US - SOMALIA CULTURAL RELATION

1. SUMMARY: EXPANDING CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA MAY LEAD TO REQUEST FOR BOOKS. END SUMMARY.
2. AS FOLLOW UP TO NICHOLS VISIT, PAO DROPPED IN ON ABDULLAHI JIMALE, CHAIRMAN, DEPT OF ENGLISH, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION. THERE ARE NO PHONES AT COLLEGE, HENCE COULD NOT MAKE APPOINTMENT. IN CURRENT ATMOSPHERE, NONE APPEARED TO BE NEEDED.
3. JIMALE WAS VERY FRIENDLY, SAID HE HOPED IT WOULD NOW BE POSSIBLE FOR COLLEGE, SPECIFICALLY HIS DEPARTMENT, TO RECONNECT WITH AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER, DESCRIBED NEED FOR CONTACT, AMERICAN BOOKS, LECTURERS ON AMLIT. HE CONFIRMED THAT NICHOLS VISIT WAS FIRST CONTACT HE HAD HAD WITH AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER SINCE HE BECAME CHAIRMAN TWO YEARS AGO. (THIS IS JUST ONE INSTANCE OF CONTRIBUTION NICHOLS VISIT HAS MADE TO OUR OVERALL OBJECTIVES HERE.)
4. PAO PRESENTED COPIES OF TOPIC, DIALOGUE, ECONOMIC IMPACT, AND FORUM. JIMALE ASKED THAT LIBRARY BE PUT ON

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MAILING LIST FOR THESE PUBLICATIONS. THIS HAD BEEN DONE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST, JIMALE TOOK PAO ON TOUR OF COLLEGE LIBRARY. COLLEGE WAS BUILT BY USAID IN 1963 AND STAFFED BY PROFESSORS FROM EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY UNTIL REVOLUTION IN 1969. LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

AT COLLEGE CONTINUES TO BE ENGLISH. COLLECTION APPEARS HEAVILY WEIGHTED TOWARDS AMERICAN MATERIALS. IDEOLOGICAL SECTION CONTAINS LENIN'S COMPLETE WORKS. JIMALE SAID GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOCATED DOLS 8,000 TO HIS DEPT TO BUY BOOKS FROM ENGLAND.

6. DISCUSSION OF GAPS IN AMLIT COLLECTION LED TO QUESTION OF WHETHER AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER COULD HELP IN FILLING THEM. PAO RECOMMENDED THAT LIST OF SPECIFIC GAPS BE DRAWN UP SO PROBLEM OF FILLING THEM COULD BE APPROACHED SYSTEMATICALLY. JIMALE ENCOURAGED PAO TO CALL ON DEAN OF THE COLLEGE AND SAID HE WOULD ARRANGE FOR APPOINTMENT.

7. COMMENT: MISSION HAS RECEIVED INDICATIONS FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT SDR INTERESTED IN BROADENING CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE U.S. E.G., USAID HAS BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE TEAM TO DETERMINE MOST FEASIBLE APPROACH TO ESTABLISH FACULTY OF MARINE SCIENCE AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY. DR. HUSSEIN ADAM TOLD PAO GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS INCREASED CONTACT IN CULTURAL FIELD WORTHWHILE. HE SAID PROBLEM FOR PARTY OFFICIALS, MINED, AND UNIVERSITY DEANS IS TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC GOALS, ASSIGN PRIORITIES, AND DECIDE WHICH WESTERN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE APPROACHED FOR ASSISTANCE IN WHICH AREA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH COMPREHENSIVE INTERNAL COORDINATION HASN'T TAKEN PLACE YET, SOME SPECIFIC STEPS HAVE BEEN APPROVED. HE CITED APPROVAL TO SEEK PLACEMENT FOR THREE SOMALIS TO PURSUE POST GRADUATE STUDIES IN U.S. AS ONE OF THEM. (FYI: IN THIS CONNECTION, PAO CRAWFORD HANDCARRYING LETTER FROM MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS MATTER DURING CONSULATION.)

8. QUESTION ARISES OF HOW TO RESPOND TO REQUEST FROM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ENGLISH DEPT FOR BOOKS, SHOULD WE RECEIVE ONE. BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION HAS ENROLLMENT OF 500 STUDENTS, 300 OF WHOM ARE ENROLLED IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT. THEY BECOME SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS UPON GRADUATION. COLLEGE IS RESIDENTIAL AND LOCATED 15 MILES WEST OF MOGADISCIO. STUDENTS FIND IT INCONVENIENT TO USE CULTURAL CENTER LIBRARY. COULD LIBRARY OUTREACH CONCEPT BE EXTENDED TO ENCOMPASS PLACING SELECTED BOOKS ORDERED FOR CULTURAL CENTER ON LONG TERM LOAN AT COLLEGE LIBRARY? DOES POST HAVE PRESENTATION ALLOCATION? IF SO, HOW LARGE?

WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE, SUGGESTIONS, IDEAS. IF
OVERTURE MADE MATERIALLY TO IMPROVE CULTURAL RELATIONS,
WOULD LIKE TO BE IN POSITION TO SAY WE WOULD BE WIL-
LING TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO REASONABLE REQUEST.
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